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SKIERS AT NCAA FINALS
IN VERMONT

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University of Montana ski coach Rusty Lyons expects a strong showing from his Big Sky champions at this week's NCAA Skiing Championships in Middlebury, Vermont.

The UM team narrowly defeated Montana State for the Big Sky title at Whitefish's Big Mountain resort three weeks ago, but captured the prestigious Banff Invitational International Ski Meet two weeks ago. Lyons has spent the past two weeks preparing the UM team for an all-out effort at the NCAA meet.

"We put it all together at Banff. Our whole team skied super and the time we have spent training should help us even more. I am expecting us to do well in Vermont," Lyons said.

Lyons said that all his skiers have the ability to beat anyone else on the team, but singled out several skiers as having exceptionally good chances to place high in their particular events. Hamilton freshman Bruce Maxwell, Norwegian Jan Bretebraten, Minneapolis, Minn. product Allan Anderson and Rick Schlaefter, a native of Lincoln, N.H., are expected to do well.

Maxwell is an excellent slalom skier and the winner of that event at both the Big Sky and Banff meets.

Bretebraten and Anderson are nordic specialists. Anderson is the Big Sky jumping champion and also the winner of that event at Banff. Bretebraten broke a ski during the Big Sky cross country race and finished fourth, but he captured the cross country run at Banff.

Schlaefter is a four-way performer. He took skimeister honors in Banff as the top all-events performer and Lyons feels that he will push for the same honor at the National meet.

The five-day meet begins Wednesday.

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